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CIVIL AFFAIRS GUIDE

on

THE ITALIAN FISHING INDUSTRY

Information of interest to Civil Affairs Officers dealing with food problems in Italy at the time of occupation.

Prepared by

Research and Analysis Branch
Office of Strategic Services

for

Civil Affairs Division
War Department

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INTRODUCTION

The Civil Affairs Guides are designed to assist Civil Affairs Officers in dealing with economic problems in occupied areas, each Guide being focused upon a specific problem in a particular area.

These Guides are not intended as collections of basic factual information, as are the Civil Affairs Handbooks, nor do they attempt to take the place of the plans prepared in the field. Based on current information and opinion in Washington, they are designed to point the factual information toward the making and executing of plans, thus assisting the labors of the Civil Affairs Officers on the ground.

Criticisms and suggestions should be sent to the Chief of the Survey and Research Section, Military Government Division, P.M.G.O., Washington, D. C.

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THE ITALIAN FISHING INDUSTRY

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THE ITALIAN FISHING INDUSTRY

I. General Survey

Italy is not self-sufficient in fish, and in normal times her annual production of approximately 150,000 metric tons was supplemented by 80,000 metric tons of imported fish, mostly salted and dried cod from Scandinavia, Iceland and France. The insufficiency of Italian fish production is due more to the natural meagerness of Mediterranean fish resources than to lack of skill on the part of Italian fishermen, or to defective organization and administration of the fishing industry. The primitive equipment used in most coastal fishing reflects the fact that Italian fisheries are not profitable enough to attract heavy investment in modern vessels, fish cold-storage, and distributing facilities. The competition of fish surplus-producing nations in northern and western Europe has made Italian attempts to achieve national self-sufficiency in this field a highly uneconomic undertaking.

The daily consumption of animal protein foods in the Italian national dietary is abnormally low in comparison to other countries, and most Italians live very close to the margin of good health in this respect. Mean annual consumption of fresh fish in Italy was 3.6 kilograms, and of preserved fish, 2.8 kilograms. The great inequalities of distribution and consumption ~~[illegible]~~, especially as between the seacoast and the interior, make this figure rather meaningless for estimating requirements in any given area. The disruption of the livestock and dairy economy in areas subject to invasion is likely to be profound, and rapid rehabilitation of

these food resources seems unlikely. Fisheries have considerably better prospects for rehabilitation, when it is considered that food resources in the sea tend to increase during wartime periods where fisheries have been restricted.

The fish catch mainly consists of the migratory species such as sardine, pilchard, anchovy, tuna, mackerel, and swordfish, and of sedentary species such as red and gray mullet, sea-bream, sculpin, sole, brill, and hake, along with invertebrates like cuttlefish, shrimp, mussels and oysters. Among the freshwater fish, carp, cultivated in irrigation ditches and ponds, are the most important.

The Adriatic Sea is fished more extensively than the other waters around Italy, since a greater part of its area is shallow and suitable for trawling; it also has important sardine and tuna fisheries. Elsewhere, the lucrative fishing grounds of Italy tend to be confined to a very narrow coastal zone, seldom over ten miles wide. The Gulf of Taranto is rather deficient in fish resources, aside from the mollusk-culture in Mar Piccolo, and tuna fishing off Gallipoli. Sicily and the off-lying islands supported a very active fishing industry based largely on tuna and sardine. Elaborate coastal pound-nets called "tonnare" are used to trap the coastwise-migrating tuna in spring and autumn. Deep-sea trawling and line-fishing occurred on the offshore banks southwest and southeast of Sicily, and off Pantelleria. Sword-fish harpooning was important in the Strait of Messina. Calabria, the Gulf of Salerno, and the Bay of Naples have very active but almost entirely small-scale coastal fishing. Offshore fishing of local importance takes place

in the Tuscan Archipelago (Elba). At Livorno, La Spezia, Genoa, and on the rest of the Ligurian coast, fishing is restricted to the narrow littoral zone, and to runs of mackerel, sardine and anchovy in deeper water. Livorno and Genoa were bases for Italian Atlantic fisheries, which before the war were carried on off the northwest African coast, and to a very limited extent on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland.

Fishing in Sardinia is concentrated on the west coast, along which are important tuna migrations, and on the northeast. Brackish and freshwater fish resources include: eel and mullet, taken in the northwest Adriatic lagoons (especially at Comacchio); the lower Po Valley and delta carp-cultivation; and the northern Italian lakes, which yield locally important fish supplies.

In 1937 there were 110,470 maritime fishermen and 13,409 full-time freshwater fishermen, operating 40,000 fishing boats, average tonnage 2.5. In the marine fisheries, 1,500 of the motorized fishing boats were requisitioned by the Italian Government at the outbreak of war; presumably additional requisitions have taken place since. The great majority of the unmotorized fishing craft are lateen-rigged sailboats or simply open rowboats. With a few exceptions, fishing port facilities in Italy are limited to masonry quays, sometimes adjacent to fish-market halls; many of the smaller fishing "ports" are only beaches. There is no well developed system for rapid rail or truck transport of refrigerated fish to urban markets, and cold-storage facilities for fish are inadequate. Sea-food processing has only moderate

importance, and is represented chiefly by tuna-canneries in Sicily and Sardinia, and canneries, drying and salting plants, etc. in Genoa, Livorno, and on the northern Adriatic.

The effect of war has been to reduce greatly the area and intensity of Italian fisheries; the decline in fish-production is presumably greatest in the southern part of the Peninsula and in Sicily, and least in the northern Adriatic.

The tables at the end of this report contain more detailed information on Italian fish production, imports and exports, numbers of fishermen, fishing boat statistics and distribution by Compartimenti Marittimi, prior to the war. More recent statistical information, covering the wartime period, is presumably available in Italian fisheries administrative centers or in local institutions concerned with the industry.

II. Fisheries Administration

A. Present Operation and Controls

The supreme direction of the Italian fishing industry is in the hands of the Ispettorato generale of the Servizio Pesca which is a sub-branch of the Direzione Generale dell'Agricoltura in the Ministero dell'Agricoltura e delle Foreste, located at Via XX Settembre, Rome.*

The Ispettore generale of the Servizio Pesca is also chief of the Ispettorato dei servici tecnici, a branch of the Servizio Pesca. The Ispettore generale is assisted by a group of learned advisors known as the Commissione consultiva della pesca. This committee meets regularly once each year, but it can be called into session more frequently if necessary. Its presiding officer is the Sub-secretary of State for Agriculture. Its members include:

Direttore generale dell'agricoltura
Ispettore generale, Capo dell'Ispettorato dei servizi tecnici della pesca
Capo della Divisione pesca nel Ministero dell'Agricoltura e foreste
Direttore del Museo zoologico di Firenze
2 fisheries experts
Direttore generale della Marina Mercantile, representing the Ministero delle communicazioni or in his place, Capo Divisione nel Ministero delle Communicazioni
Ispettore generale, representing Ministero delle corporazioni
Direttore coloniale, representing Ministero delle colonie
Direttore dell'Istituto idrografico della R. Marina
Segretario del R. Comitato talassografico italiano
Three representatives of the fishing industry

---

* In 1939 a Commissariat General of Fisheries, directly responsible to the Duce, was established. Its exact functions are not known, but among other things it provided state subsidies to fishermen for the purchase of electric lights used as lures for night-fishing. Presumably it is an advisory and coordinating body.

Three representatives of the fishermen (captains, etc.)
One representative of the Ente Nazionale della Corporazione
One representative of the fish-dealers (Commercianto del pesce)

When the Comissione consultiva della pesca is not in session, the smaller Comitato permanente della pesca is on hand to advise the Ispettore generale on current problems. Its membership includes:

President: Sub-secretary of State for Agriculture
Direttore generale dell'agricoltura (serves in absence of president)
Ispettore generale, capo dell'Ispettorato dei servizi tecnici della pesca
Capo della Divisione pesca nel Ministero dell'agricoltura e foreste
Direttore generale della Marina mercantile (representing the Ministero delle comunicazione) or in his place, Capo Divisione nel Ministero delle comunicazione
One representative of the fishing industry
One representative (captain) of the fishermen

The chief agency of Vigilance and Control concerned with fisheries is the Milizia nazionale forestale, an armed force, headed by a Comandante, with headquarters at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Rome. This police force serves as a patrol for enforcement of fishing laws on lakes, rivers, and along the sea coast, as well as a guard for fish-hatcheries and other establishments under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Another office involved in the administration of fisheries is the specialized Ispettorato tecnico demaniale per la Molluschicoltura e istituto demaniale e biologia marina at Taranto, Corso ai due mari, 12; Direttore.

The Tribunale Superiore della Acque Pubbliche in the Palazzo di Giustizzia, Piazza Cavour, Rome, adjudicates cases arising under the Ministerial decrees on revisions of exclusive fishing rights. The Tribunale is under the direction of a Presidente.

The Unioni Territoriali Industriali, local committees for coordination of industries also have sezioni on fisheries and

related fields. Such sections are to be found at: Venice, Trieste, Genoa, Spezia, Grosseto, Livorno, Lucca, Ancona, Ascoli-Piceno, Rome, Pescara, Teramo, Campobasso, Naples, Salerno, Bari, Lecce, Taranto, Catanzaro, Cosenza, Reggio Calabria, Catania, Messina, Palermo, Cagliari, Sassari. Although the Unioni Territoriali Industriali are Fascist organizations, they may have survived the anti-Fascist edicts of Marshal Badoglio. These and other organizations may survive minus their Fascist political representatives.

There are certain Federazioni Nazionali with subsidiary interests in fisheries:

Federazione nazionale fascista dell'industria delle acque gassate, della birra, e del freddo, Milan, (problems relating to cold-storage and refrigeration);

Federazione nazionale fascista dell'industria del legno, Milan, (forestry, in relation to fish hatcheries, fish stocking in streams, etc.);

Federazione nazionale fascista dell'industria meccanica e metallurgica, Milan, (marine engines for fishing vessels, tin-plate for canning, etc.);

Federazione nazionale fascista delle industrie tessili varie, Milan, (fish-nets, sail-canvas, and cordage).

In addition, the following technical bodies carry on work related to the fishing industry:

Stazione Sperimentale del Freddo (Refrigeration Experimental Station) attached to the R. Istituto Superiore Agrario, Milan: studies of cold-storage and refrigerated transport.

Stazione sperimentale di risicoltura e delle coltivazioni irrigue at

Vercelli, (Experimental Station for Rice-growing and Irrigation): This station inoludes a section on carp-culture in flooded rice-fields and irrigation systems.

Ispettorato dei servizi tecnici della pesca, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, deals with questions of restocking public waters and services for fish-hatcheries, and technical services for fisheries in general.

Also dependent on the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is the R. Laboratorio Centrale di Idrobiologia applicata alla pesca, Piazza Borghese, 91, in Rome, headed by a Direttore (ordinarily the same person as Ispettore generale, servizio pesca, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry) which undertakes physical, chemical, and biological studies of waters with special regard to fisheries, has control of industrial pollution of interior waters, and does research on the nutritive value of seafoods.

R. Osservatorio di idrobiologia e pesca marittima in Gansirri, Messina (Director at University of Messina) works on the environmental conditions of fish. The R. Stazione idrobiologia del Trasimeno at Monte del Lago, Perugia (Director at University of Perugia) and the R. Stabilimento ittiogenico di Roma via della Stazione Tiburtina has plants for the incubation of fish-eggs. The R. Stabilimento ittiogenico di Brescia via XXVIII Ottobre, 27 has hatcheries at Brescia and at Belluno (Stazione di Piscicoltura di Belluno) for trout eggs for angling, etc. The R. Squadriglia sperimentale di pesca at Pola, is charged with the exploration of fishing grounds now unused or rarely used, and for the systematic study of the sea-bottom and the preparation of fishery charts. The R. Ispettorato tecnico demaniale del Mar Piccolo per la molluschicoltura (headquarters in Rome) which is

dependent on the Ministry of Finance, was begun in 1913 for the surveillance of the Mar Piccolo area at Taranato used for mollusk-cultivation, annexed to which is the Istituto demaniale di biologia marina dell Ispettorato, for research on oyster and mussel cultivation.

The R. Comitato talassografico italiano (Rome) founded in 1910 is under the Consiglio nazionale delle ricerche (Rome), and is presided over by the president of the National Research Council, and its members are representatives of ministries and of scientific and technical bodies. It was set up to coordinate studies and research of the institutions dependent upon it: Istituto centrale di biologia marina at Messina (Sicily), Istituto di biologia marina del Tirreno, at San Bartolomeo, Cagliari (Sardinia), R. Istituto geofisico, at Trieste, and Istituto di biologia marina at Rovigno d'Istria, relative to physical, chemical, and biological aspects of the seas around Italy and its colonies, particularly in respect to fishing and navigation.

Fondazione Littoria per la piccola pesca, (formerly the Comitato nazionale per gli studi e la propaganda peschereccia), with headquarters in Rome, was organized to facilitate the spread of new techniques of fishing, and to issue propaganda for increased public consumption of fisheries products. This foundation receives contributions from the state, from operators of fisheries and from other interested firms and persons.

Most of these scientific and technical organizations are not creations of the Fascist regime and are probably capable of working effectively under a non-Fascist regime. Even the Fondazione Littoria, despite its Fascist title, is probably more a committee of technical experts than a group of politically-minded Fascists.

Another technical body which administers one of Italy's fishing

problems is the R. Commissariato Italiano per la Convenzione Italo-Elvetica per la Pesca. It supervises Italian and Swiss fishing on Lake Maggiore and Lake di Lugano, under the terms of Italo-Swiss conventions of June 13, 1906 and February 8, 1911. Its office is located at 23 Via Borgonuovo, Milan.

Mollusk culture, practiced in Mar Piccolo (Taranto), and in Lakes Fusaro and Miseno (Napoli Province) is under the R. Azienda del Mar Piccolo di Taranto, which was constituted by Royal decree on 2 November, 1927, n. 2027. This corporation has a 30 year concession from the commune of Taranto for the Mar Piccolo.

Regulation of fishing gear and methods, and recommendations on these subjects, are handled by the Commissioni locali per la pesca fluviale e lacuale and the Commissioni locali per la pesca marittima. These commissions, instituted by royal decree, 2 March, 1931, n. 600, are located in provincial capitals and in each seat of the Compartimenti Marittimi. The commissions for lake and river fishing are headed by the prefects, and those of the marine fisheries by the Comandante del Compartimento Marittimo.

Every port of importance has an office where data on fishing boats are kept. These offices are under the direction of the Comando Gruppo Legioni Milizia Portuaria whose immediate superior is the chief of Divisione VI, entitled Demanio marittimo e pesca, of the Direzione Generale della Marina Mercantile in the Ministero delle Communicazioni. There is one such office at each of the Direzione Marittima, which are administrative centers for maritime affairs along each section of the Italian seacoast. Each Direzione Marittimo is subdivided into Compartimenti Marittimi. At the chief port of each of the Compartimenti, there is a Capitanerie di porto where records are kept on the

classification, registration, tonnage, ownership, of all vessels operating from the port. The officers in charge of the ports are variously called capitano di porto, colonnello di porto, maggiore di porto, or nocchiere (pilot) di porto. The offices of the Direzione Marittimi and of Compartimente Marittimi are listed below:

Direzione Marittimi	Compartimenti Marittimi*
Genova	Imperia, Savona, Genova, La Spezia
Livorno	Viareggio, Livorno, Portoferraio
Lazio (Roma)	Civitavecchia
Napoli	Gaeta, Napoli, Torre del Greco, Castellamare, Salerno
Reggio Calabria	Pizzo, Reggio
Bari	Taranto, Brindisi, Bari
Ancona	Ancona, Rimini, Zara
Venezia	Ravenna, Chioggia, Venezia
Trieste	Trieste, Pola
Cagliari	Cagliari, La Maddalena
Catania	Messina, Catania, Siracusa
Palermo	Porto Empedocle, Trapani, Palermo
Carnaro	Fiume

Small fishing ports within each Compartimente Marittimo may not have a Capitaneria di porto, but they have offices known as Uffici Circondariali Marittimi or Uffici Marittimi Locali which carry out the same functions as the Capitaneria di porto. These offices are very small and their jurisdiction extends over very limited sections of the coastline.

Under wartime conditions, fishermen in the various ports of Italy were under severe restrictions. Many of them were allowed to sail no

* Towns listed are Capitanerie di porto.

farther than 1 or 2 miles from shore, and they were not allowed to sail more than 3 or 4 miles in a coastwise direction from their home ports. Each boat was numbered to correspond with its fishing license, and the license always had to be carried aboard the boat when it was at sea. The license was in the form of a school-exercise book and had to be taken to the harbor control to be stamped when the boat left or returned to port. Fishing was permitted only between sunrise and sunset, and the boats were required to return to the port from which they set sail. The crews were required to submit their licenses and papers to the inspection of the local port authorities. The boats, many of them containing 20 HP gasoline engines, were permitted to use only oars and sails as motive power.

Most of the coastal towns of Italy and some of the towns of the interior have special fish markets. Those markets, as at Genoa, Milan, Naples, and elsewhere are usually under municipal control, although the fish market of Rome was under State control. Some of the markets are wholesale enterprises while others combine wholesale and retail operations. The following list contains information on some of the more important of the fish markets of Italy:

WHOLESALE FISH MARKETS IN ITALY

City	Area in sq. meters	Controlled by	Rail service	Cold Storage Facilities	System of sale	Source	Yearly total quantity fish handled (quintals)
Rome	2756	Government	Yes	Yes	Commission	Ports in Latium: 30%; Tuscany: 25%; Abruzzi: 18%; Apulia, Marche, Sicily	1935: 63,835
Turin	800	Alleanza Cooperativa Torinese	No	Yes 235 cu. meters	Public Auction	Italy and some from abroad	1935: 9,053
Genoa	1200	Municipality	No	600 cu.m. for 150 quintals of fish	Public auction	Riviera di Ponente, Levante, Adriatic Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea and from abroad	1935: 23,588
Milano	5800	Municipality	No	6000 cu. meters	Public auction	S. Benedetto del Tronto, Veneto, Emilia, Marche, Liguria, Italian lakes, Norway, Denmark, Sweden	1935: 24,120
Venice	570	Municipality	No	No	Public auction	Venetian littoral	1935: 48,403
San Benedetto del Tronto	6179	Municipality	No	Yes (not finished 1937)	Public auction	Adriatic	Aver.: 10 - 17,000 excessively high in 1935: 73,389
Naples	2800	Municipality (Consorzio Peschereccio del Tirreno)	No	Capacity 840 quintals	Public auction	Golfo di Napoli, and Adriatic, Tyrrhenian, Ionian Seas, Sicily and Sardinia	1935:72,663

Source: Camera di Commercio Internazionale, 1937, I Mercati All'Ingrosso in Italia, Funzionamento e costi.

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Fishing Treaties:

Italy has fishing treaties with a number of nations. The treaties with Switzerland have already been mentioned in the discussion of the R. Commissariato Italiano per la Convenzione Italo-Elvetica per la Pesca. In addition to the treaties with Switzerland, Italy has fishing agreements with France and Jugoslavia. The treaty with France, dated January 18, 1908, regulates the fishing zone between Sardinia and Corsica, while that with Jugoslavia, dated October 23, 1922, and July 20, 1925, regulates fishing in the Adriatic. Similar treaties were made with Tunisia, September 28, 1896, Greece, November 24, 1926, and Albania, January 20, 1924.

Fisheries Legislation:

With the law approved by Royal Decree 8 October, 1931, n. 1604, all Italian fisheries legislation was coordinated. This code covers every aspect of marine and fresh-water fisheries, exclusive rights of fisheries, tariffs and taxation, credit for fishing firms, public assistance for fishermen, fishing associations, cooperatives, and regulation of fish-markets. More recent legislation on fisheries, forms in itself a large body of law.

Insofar as the fishing industry deals with the navigation of vessels, the industry is regulated under the legislative dispositions of the Marina Mercantile. The Merchant Marine Code, approved by Royal Decree 24 October, 1877, n. 4146, distinguishes maritime fisheries "limitata" -- i.e. carried on within the limits of the district where a boat is registered, and "illimitata" -- i.e. carried on by a boat outside territorial waters or outside the district to which the vessel belongs.

In addition to the civil service administrative bodies which have

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direct or indirect interests in fisheries, there were a number of Fascist organizations which play an advisory role in the control of fishing. It is very likely that some of these organizations are still in existence in one form or another. One of the most important of these organizations is the Corporazione della zootecnica e della pesca. This was constituted by the decree of the Chief of State, and is composed of a president, in the person of the Chief of Government or the Minister of Corporations, of three representatives of the national fascist party, from whom is to be nominated the vice-president, and four other members from the stock-raising industry, four from the fishing industry, ten from the dairy industry, two from the trade in animals, four from the dried meat industry, and other animal food-preserving industries, and four other members representing professional agriculturalists, veterinary medicine, latterie sociali (milk-system), and the cooperative of the fishermen.

Other advisory bodies of similar nature include:

The Federazione nazionale fascista dei commercianti dei prodotti della pesca -- a federation of fish dealers with headquarters at Rome.

The Federazione nazionale fascista degli industriali della pesca deals with the following branches of the industry: fishing with mechanized or auxilliary motorized boats; fishing with boats propelled by sail, over 10 tons stazza lorda; fishing in internal waters; mollusk-culture; coral and sponge fisheries; "vallicoltura" (carp, etc.); tonnare (tuna pound-nets); processing of fisheries byproducts (oil, fish-meal, fish leather); processing and canning of fisheries products; its seat was in Rome, and its members consisted of the firms engaged in the businesses listed. The number of firms represented in the Federazione was 15,084 in 1936.

The Federazione nazionale fascista dei lavoratori della pesca is concerned with fishing with boats not propelled by motors, and less than 10 tons, which fish on their own account, "prima inquadrati nella Federazione nazionale fascista degli artigiani" (Artisans). This body is linked with the Federazione nazionale fascista dei lavoratori dei commercio alimentare.

The cultivation and trade in edible mollusks is regulated for sanitary purposes by the law of 4 July, 1929, n. 1315, modified by law of 1 April, 1935, n. 543. All mollusk concessions are subject to the authorization of the Prefect, with the right of renewal every 6 months. The transportation and sale of oysters and mollusks not coming from establishments authorized under this law were forbidden.

The regulation of manufacture of and trade in canned seafoods is by Royal Decree, 7 July 1927, n. 1548, and 27 June, 1929, n. 1427. This law relates to the canning of fishery products, to the reports made to the prefect indicating the mode of preparation of the product. This law also provides for the chemical and bacteriological examinations of the product which must be made annually, and requires that statements must appear on the containers giving name of the contents, quality of the oil used, substances used for preservation, net weight, and name and location of manufacturing company. For local finance, taxes on consumption of canned fish products were authorised to Comuni.

B. Suggested Methods of Fisheries Control to be Adopted by Civil Affairs Authorities

The aims of the fisheries administration should include:

1. Reestablishment of the local fishing industry and the supply of sea foods to consumers, within such limitations as military security imposes.

2. Continuance of the operations of all fisheries administrative, technical, and scientific institutions.

3. Enforcement of all laws and regulations relating to the fishing industry both marine and in fresh water, including those related to the maintenance of security on waterways, reservoirs, and lakes.

4. Assistance in the control of the movements of fishing vessels in and out of ports, and offshore.

5. Protection and preservation of fisheries resources, including prevention of pollution of waters from which fish or mollusks are taken.

In the wartime administration of sea-fisheries, coastal security becomes a paramount consideration. Fishing should remain a secondary matter until the necessity for security measures abates. The local availability of other animal protein foods, such as milk, cheese, meat, and eggs, for the civilian population, is an important factor in determining the priority for reestablishment of the fishing industry in a given area.

The structure of Italian fisheries organization should be taken over as nearly intact as is consistent with the political and military situation. The personnel of the Italian organization

should be utilized, and all records, registries, files of licenses, permits, and other documents should be utilized in the offices of port captains and others.

The bulk of fisheries legislation should remain in force, superseded only where the military situation requires abridgement of rights. An effort should be made to compile all local Italian wartime emergency regulations of the fishing industry, since most of it has been enacted for coastal security and would still be used by the Civil Affiars Administration for the same purpose.

Local Administration

During the period immediately following occupation, when maritime activity was suspended and boats were tied up in harbor under guard or stranded along shore, a survey should be made of the number and seaworthiness of fishing craft in each area. Their types, general specifications, and registration numbers should be listed. The information thus obtained should be checked later against the registry of boats in the offices of the local port captains. Boats which, in the course of recent military operations, had been taken away from their ports of registry should be reported to the port captain of the town of registry, so that they may be returned ultimately to their owners.

Duplicate reports on the condition of the fishing boats in each port should be sent to the office of central administration of fisheries where they would be compiled to determine the overall condition of the fishing fleet of the area occupied.

After completing this survey, officers in charge of administering local fisheries should convene local fisheries commissions and

other organizations of fishermen, boat owners and fish handlers and discuss with them plans for the restoration of local fishing activities.

It would probably be necessary at this point to issue proclamations setting forth the permitted and forbidden areas for fishing. It would be preferable to work out details of these proclamations with local fishermen and operators. In establishing permitted areas for fishing the seaward limit on open stretches of coast should not be beyond the limits of clear visibility of shore, three or four miles at the most. Where the coast is deeply indented, as in the Gulf of Castellamare in Sicily or in the Gulf of Naples, the seaward limit can be as much as ten miles from the innermost section of the embayment. The coastwise extension of restricted fishing areas should be governed by the conformation of the coast and facility of supervision from shore observation posts. In any case, if night fishing is forbidden, the distances from the port should be such that the slowest moving fishing craft can make port within an hour or two after it has ceased fishing.

The limits determined upon should then be clearly indicated on a large scale hydrographic chart. If possible, copies of the Italian hydrographic charts should be utilized as fishermen would be more familiar with their format. Extracts from the regulations governing the hours of fishing, display of registration numbers, identification papers required to be carried by crew members, any areas within the general permitted area forbidden for anchorage,

and other pertinent information should be printed along with the chart of the permitted fishing areas.

If possible, the boundaries of the permitted area should be drawn so as to coincide with easily recognizable and familiar landmarks on shore, such as bearings on certain church steeples, old towers or prominent rocks. Purely arbitrary demarcation lines such as lines projected perpendicular to the shore from a point not distinguished by landmarks are very difficult to enforce. The notices should be posted, and distributed publicly, and each boat should be provided with a marked chart so that there will be no excuse for violation.

In any area where sea fishing is to be permitted, the officers charged with enforcing the regulations should be provided with a small fast motorboat which should be prominently marked so that any signals or commands issued from it could not be mistaken.

Enforcement of fishing regulations would be simplified by the use of a guide to the types of Italian fishing boats.*

The officers in charge of fisheries administration in Italy would find the following publications indispensable in understanding of practical problems which would arise in control of the industry:

1. Ministero dell'Agricoltura e delle Foreste, La Pesca nei mari e nelle acque interne d'Italia, 3 volumes, Rome, 1931.
2. Ministero dell'Agricoltura e delle Foreste, R. Laboratorio centrale di idrobiologia applicata alla pesca, Bollettino di Pesca, di Piscoltura, e di Idrobiologia, a bimonthly publication, Rome, issued by the Istituto Poligrafico dello Strato. The entire series should be obtained.

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* This report entitled "Italian Fishing Boats and Other Small Coastal Craft", dated June 1943, is available at Central Information Division, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, D. C.

These publications could be obtained at any of the official fisheries institutions or administrative establishments listed in Section IIA, "Present Operation and Control", and in most large libraries such as those attached to most universities. Both of these publications contain the royal decrees concerned with the fishing industry. Publication No. 1 is a compendium of information on Italian fisheries including a table of the fisheries administration, basic fisheries legislation, full texts of all Italian fisheries ~~treaties~~, descriptions of the institutions engaged in fisheries work, scientific information on the species of fish, lists of common and dialect names* for fish, descriptions of types of fishing gear used in Italy, a comprehensive address list of fish dealers and tuna pound-net owners. Although this work was compiled over 12 years ago, most of the matter which it contains is basically unchanged. Publication No. 2 contains current scientific and descriptive articles on various phases of the fishing industry. If a file of recent issues of the periodical Corriere della Pesca is available, it should also be obtained.

In the second phase or at the beginning of the third phase, when the fisheries administration becomes consolidated, activities of shore fishermen using beach seines and lines and persons on foot gathering sea food in shallow coastal waters, could be resumed. If it is necessary to prevent large concentrations of people on the shore, special passes could be issued to persons authorized.

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* For clarity and consistency in a promulgation of fishing regulations in Italian, these lists of local dialect terms will be extremely useful.

At the same time, small fishing craft propelled by oars or sails could be allowed to fish up to two to five miles from shore, and at distances parallel to the shore to be determined by local expediency. Before fishing vessels of any kind are permitted to leave port, the precaution of removal of all radio equipment should be taken.

Later it may be possible to permit larger boats with or without motors to operate farther from shore for paranza-trawling and lampara-seine operations. Plans for the operation of the largest Italian motor fishing vessels, which were capable of working deep sea fishing grounds at great distances from Italian territorial waters, should not be contemplated until cessation of hostilities in the Mediterranean theatre.

Special consideration should be given to the tuna pound-nets called "Tonnare" in Italian which are situated at various points along the coast, particularly in Sicily and Sardinia. Where their existence does not interfere with coastwise navigation, productive tuna pound-nets which have been damaged during landings should be surveyed to see if repairs can be made or whether they should be removed entirely. The tuna nets and other stationary gear left in the sea were normally marked with lights at night, and by day with flags or buoys. Under the abnormal conditions of wartime navigation all such nets should be marked. As the boats which serve to transport the tuna catch from the net to the shore follow a fixed route, they would require only minimum supervision.

Where fishing is only permitted between sunrise and sunset, the time required to reach and return from fishing grounds must be taken into account. To facilitate prompt return to port, a system of signals should be arranged which would enable fishing craft to haul in their gear and make for port. This would also help in spotting stragglers and would offer no excuse to boats which failed to comply. Since the productivity of sardine fisheries is much greater at night, the reestablishment of night fishing should receive attention at the earliest possible moment.

Fishing operations in coastal lagoons, lakes, and river mouths should be permitted as soon as possible. Officers in charge of administration of reservoirs and dams should be provided with information on fishing and fish-breeding ordinarily carried on in them. If dams and reservoirs are forbidden to the civil population, some fishing could be carried on by personnel of the occupying forces with possible remuneration to the holders of fishing rights. Carp and trout would be the principal catches. Every effort should be made to insure the continued breeding and raising of these fish in inland waters. In order to encourage the continued production of carp in the ponds and irrigation systems in the Po Valley it might be wise to permit their unrationed sale. Fishing in lakes along the Italian-Swiss border, regulated by the Italo-Swiss treaty, should be continued as far as is practical.

Central Fisheries Administration

A central fisheries administration should be established, preferably in a city where there is already an established fisheries administrative institution, the personnel, archives, and library of which could therefore be immediately usable. The institutions listed in Section IIA include several such centers, any of which would be suitable. To this central administration, officers in charge of local administration should submit the reports on the status of the fishing fleets under their jurisdiction. Local officers should also submit reports containing the emergency regulations affecting fisheries established by local Italian authorities. Regulations enacted by the occupying forces affecting the fishing industry should also be reported. Other information to be gathered should include a statement of the conditions of local fish markets, cold storage plants, and fish canneries. An inventory should be taken of local supplies of webbing, fishing gear, repair materials, and other available facilities.

In large Italian harbors which are to be used as ports of debarkation, the central fisheries administration should see to it that fishing docks retain a clear channel. The fishing quay should also be left clear and free access to the town maintained.

The manufacture of ice is critical for the preservation of fish. Central fisheries administration should determine local requirements of ice to be used in fishing industry and if facilities are lacking to arrange for ice supply in handling centers.

Hoarding and illegal consumption of fresh fish are perhaps more easily prevented than violations involving less perishable foods.

The urban wholesale fish markets described in Section IIA could

be administered most practically by continuing the system as it functioned under the Italian government.

The black market in fish in port towns is more difficult to control. Since it is likely that a portion of the catch will find its way to the homes of fishermen anyway it would be well to recognize this practice in order to discourage habitual violations of other regulations.

The fact that in a Catholic country, such as Italy, fish is in greatest demand on Fridays should be borne in mind in the administration of fish distribution. While more even market demand is desirable from a purely practical viewpoint, any shortage of fish in the markets on Friday and greater than ordinary stocks of fish on other days would tend to disrupt the traditional home economy. Wherever possible every effort should be made to have a good market supply of fresh fish on Friday. During Lent also fish consumption is ordinarily higher than average and this should be taken into account. A useful guide to the importance of this condition is the fact that Friday fish sales to Italians in New York City make up 67 percent of the weekly total sales (not including Sundays). Depending on the distance from Italian coastal fish handling centers, the peak fish shipping day would vary from Thursday to Wednesday. If this is not taken into account, there may be dissatisfaction with the civil affairs administration on religious grounds. The existence of specialized restaurants for sea food should be taken into account in planning the administration of food distribution in public eating places. Such establishments, where possible, should be provided with larger fish allotments.

III. Problems of Personnel in the Italian Fishing Industry

The establishment of an efficient fisheries administration in occupied Italy depends to a very great extent on the matter of reliability of the Italian personnel, and the degree of reliability and cooperation which can be expected from the fishermen, fishing-boat captains, and others engaged in the fishing business. The selection of officers drawn from our own armed forces to serve as administrative specialists and advisors in the fishing industry will also determine the future efficiency of control.

A. Local Cooperation

Italian fishermen belong to the lowest class of peasants, and are regarded by other Italians as socially inferior even to the poorest farmers. Persons familiar with the Italian social organization report that as a group fishermen, and others of similar low income, do not have much loyalty or confidence in any governing authorities, or their rules and regulations. Cooperation with the fishermen could be obtained by (1) Dealing with them on a basis which appeared to be in their best interests as individuals. On the other hand, there is no evidence to show that Italian fishermen are any more likely than farmers, etc. to engage in smuggling, black-market trading, or terrorism; (2) Assuring the fishermen that all legislation providing for the social security of fishermen and their families, particularly in cases of death or injury while at sea will be continued; and (3) by carefully avoiding favoritism to the owners of large motor vessels, or rich fishing operators, as

against the common small-boat fishermen,

As has been pointed out in Section II of this report, it is likely that the smallest and poorest fishing operators, those who use unmotorized boats of low cruising radius, will be allowed to fish first. Some advantage might be taken of this security measure, in pointing out that the poorest fishermen were the first to benefit by the Civil Affairs fisheries administration.

The owners of fishing boats, operators of fishing businesses, handlers of fish in auction halls, fish-markets, and in storage and transport, are likely to be as reliable as the population generally. Control of illegal sale and consumption of fish products would be more difficult than in the case of fishermen, whose catches are under surveillance as soon as they are brought to the quay. As far as possible, the experience of the former Italian wartime price and consumption control administration should be drawn upon for procedures.

The types of controls to be exercised over fishing crews in the matter of licenses, identification papers, etc. have been stated in Section II.

B. Migrant Fishermen

A problem which is likely to be encountered upon setting up an administration, is the existence of migratory colonies of fishermen, especially on the west-central coast, north of Naples. In summer, small camps of fishermen traditionally are set up along rather desolate sections of the sea-coast, the boats simply hauled on the beaches when not in use. As these fishermen have been

seasonal migrants all their lives, there is little to gain by forcing them to return to their home villages. If possible they should be permitted to fish under the same system of controls as settled village fishermen, if adequate provisions for security can be made.

C. Trained Administrative Personnel

For Italian administrative personnel, former Italian fisheries civil servants should be employed in their regular capacities wherever possible. As their jobs and future pensions, etc. depend upon their collaboration, they would probably remain reliable. This naturally applies to regular civil servants, and not to mere functionaries of the former Fascist party, whose leadership was only nominal. Scientific and technical men either employed by the Italian government, or serving in scientific, educational or technical institutions, are probably the most reliable for disinterested advice. Most of the men with European scientific reputations could be checked for reliability through their scientific colleagues in non-Axis countries, with whom they had personal contacts before the war.

Trained American fisheries administrative personnel can be obtained from officers already in the armed forces. Americans best trained for practical administration of commercial fishing include officers formerly employed in administrative capacities with the State Fish and Game (or State Fisheries) Departments of any of several seacoast states. Such individuals would be familiar with procedures involved in delimitation of seacoast areas, enforcement of fishing and fishing-boat regulations, and with licensing,

identification, inspection of vessels and equipment, as well as with methods of fish-handling and processing. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has personnel familiar with enforcement and administration, in connection with the Alaska fisheries. The closest American approximation to Italian marine fishing conditions and therefore the best experience for fisheries administration in Italy, would be in California, which has similar climate, conformation of the coast, species of fish, fishing methods, and the problems of control of alien fishermen. State marine fisheries administrators are suggested as preferable to fisheries research biologists or men who have managed fishing businesses. If officers with such experience are not already present in the Mediterranean area, it is suggested that the names and present addresses of officers (Army, Navy, or Coast Guard) can quickly be obtained through contact with the various state fisheries departments or boards, which would know which of their former employees were commissioned officers.

Many officers of the United States Coast Guard have had special experiences in port control and procedures involved with security of coasts and movements of fishing boats in American waters.

IV. Equipment and Supplies for the Fishing Industry

It is advisable to permit the Italians to reestablish and rehabilitate the fishing industry largely on their own initiative, and in cases where the local fish supply remains inadequate even when most security restrictions are relaxed, it would seem preferable to import preserved fish from the United States or other areas rather than to bring in new equipment or gear. Any sea-food deficiency could be met more directly and efficiently by import of salt-dried cod or canned salmon than by efforts to increase the local catch with use of additional equipment.

A drastic shortage affecting Italian fisheries has been that of motor fuel for motorized fishing vessels, but since widespread fishing with motorboats will be discouraged or prohibited for security reasons, fuel supplies will not have to be imported for the fishing industry.

The position of Italy, as the world's second largest producer of soft hemp, and the high development of her textile and cordage industries, is such that we should not be required to import sail-canvas, net-webbing, or cordage. For most purposes, net-floats can be made of glass bottles if cork is not available.

The Italian paint and varnish industry, which was dependent upon imported resins and drying-oils, is apparently inadequate under present conditions. It might be necessary to provide limited quantities of paint and varnish to fishing boat operators to prevent deterioration of vessels and equipment. Such provisions had better wait until the situation can be thoroughly surveyed.

Fish-netting is preserved by the use of tar, and with tanning substances, as well as with linseed oil, blue vitriol, and creosote. Tar is most commonly used in sea-fisheries as a preservative, and allotments might be required to prevent wastage of netting. Tanning substances (especially chestnut bark) are produced in surplus in Italy, and would not need to be imported.

Provision of wooden boxes and trays for fish-handling in the large fish auction halls and markets, and for packing fish for transport might be necessary, but probably all of the lumber for such containers could be obtained from the empty boxes and crates in which supplies for the occupying forces were shipped.

Salt is necessary in drying and salting fish, in brine-pickling, and is sometimes used as a temporary net-preservative. As Italy is a large producer of solar evaporated salt and of rock-salt, imported salt would not be needed.

For adequate storage of fish, which spoils readily, and for successful transport to inland markets, ice is needed in quantity at the place of packing, and in the fish-markets. The local ice-making facilities should be investigated and, if necessary, repaired so that an adequate ice supply is assured. Cold storage plants, often operated in conjunction with breweries, or used for storage of eggs, meat, and poultry, can usually accommodate fish. If insulated freight cars or motor trucks are available for fresh refrigerated fish shipment, arrangements should be made to place them in operation, and considerable repairs would be justifiable in order to reestablish such service.

For canning of tuna and sardine in oil, tin-plate is required. Italy along with the rest of the Continent is deficient in tin, and Italian industry would presumably be unable to supply tin plate in sufficient quantities. Most of the Italian fish canneries have facilities for the manufacture of their own cans, if they are provided with the raw materials. Conversion of many canneries to packing in glass containers may have already taken place; anchovies and similar antipasti have long been packed in glass jars which require only metal tops. Since canned fish was virtually a luxury to most Italian consumers, the necessity for reopening canneries is not great, unless glass can be used, or tin plate obtained without drawing upon our own supplies. Every effort to pack preserved fish by methods which do not require expenditure of metals should be encouraged.

BOATS ENGAGED IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY ON DECEMBER 31, 1939

Compartimenti Marittimi	Number	Tonnage	Average Tonnage
Imperia	322	435	1.3
Savona	547	877	1.6
Genova	1,128	4,502	4.0
La Spezia	574	1,075	1.8
Viareggio	243	1,040	4.3
Livorno	688	6,588	9.6
Portoferraio	280	384	1.4
Civitavecchia	183	518	2.8
Roma	310	793	2.5
Gaeta	860	1,733	2.0
Napoli	3,747	6,104	1.6
Torre de Greco	356	2,183	6.1
Castellamare di Stabia	675	830	1.2
Salerno	984	1,262	1.3
Pizzo	491	784	1.6
Reggio di Calabria	1,128	1,810	1.6
Taranto	592	705	1.2
Brindisi	818	1,347	1.6
Bari (Molfetta)	3,105	9,055	2.9
Ancona	2,020	7,136	3.5
Rimini	1,102	7,121	6.5
Ravenna	642	1,704	2.7
Chioggia	1,766	6,790	3.8
Venezia	1,620	2,227	1.4
Trieste	1,953	3,305	1.7
Pola (Lussinpiccolo)	1,203	2,027	1.7
Fiume	864	1,546	1.8
Zara	141	269	1.9
Cagliari	1,174	2,409	2.1
Olbia (Terranova)	791	1,472	1.9
Messina	2,860	6,443	2.2
Catania	1,393	2,589	1.9
Siracusa	1,115	2,859	2.6
Porto Empedocle	1,138	4,653	4.1
Trapani	1,557	4,057	2.6
Palermo	1,722	3,064	1.8
Total, December 31, 1939	40,092	101,696	
December 31, 1938	39,901	99,830	
December 31, 1937	40,333	101,153	

Source: Annuario Statistico d'Italia, 1941, p. 144.

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ITALY - FISH PRODUCTION (1937)

	Owners	Employees*	Active Vessels*	Catch (1936)* in quintals: Fish	Mollusks and Crustaceans	Corals and Sponges
Fishing from shore, 1937	864	1,423	-	1,138	1,371	-
Fishing with boats, 1937	29,424	79,574	30,621	743,689	57,486	2,980
By types of boats:						
Steamboats	-	792	85	67,801	405	3
Motorboats	-	712	107	47,872	303	-
Motorboats with sails	-	672	99	44,452	2,754	-
Sailboats with auxiliary motors	-	5,247	913	205,640	2,546	104
Sailboats	-	4,760	1,221	42,366	1,240	2,357
Boats unspecified as to type	-	67,391	28,196	335,558	50,238	516
Fish culture and mollusk culture	536	2,143	-	25,997	65,654	-
Tuna pound-nets	67	2,560	-	31,274	-	-
TOTAL	30,891	85,700	30,621	802,098	124,511	2,980
Fresh water fish and fish culture	17,176	20,676	-	56,451	-	-
TOTAL	48,067	106,376	30,621	858,549	124,511	2,980

* Data incomplete.

Source: Annuario Statistico d'Italia, 1941, p. 100.

ITALY - FISH PRODUCTION
in 1000 quintals

Year	Fresh and Frozen Fish: Production*	Fresh and Frozen Fish: Import	Fresh and Frozen Fish: Export	Preserved Fish: Production	Preserved Fish: Import: Dried, salted, smoked	Preserved Fish: Import: Prepared	Preserved Fish: Export: Dried, salted, smoked	Preserved Fish: Export: Prepared
1934	1,330	72	9	160	779	123	4	24
1935	1,500	52	7	195	628	153	4	34
1936	1,530	68	2	435	360	45	5	28

* Including Libia which in 1935 produced 15,000 quintals; in 1936: 11,500 quintals, mostly tuna.

Source: Banca d'Italia, L'Economia Italiana nel Sessenio 1931-1936, Part 2, Vol. I, Rome, p. 572, 1938.

TUNA POUND-NET (TONNARE)

	1934	1935	1936
Number of pound-nets operated	47	46	40*
Production in quintals	26,653	19,994	25,974

* Lacking data from Compartimento Marittima of Fiume.

SARDELLE (SARDINE) AND ALACCE**
in quintals

Year	Sardine		Alacce	
	Number of boats	Production	Number of boats	Production
1934	3,809	76,422	155	6,970
1935	3,538	118,625	104	8,798
1936	3,599	80,724	?	?

** Incomplete figures.

PRODUCTION OF PROCESSED FISH
in 1000 quintals

Year	Dried, salt and smoked fish	Tuna	Other	Total
1934	40	30	90	160
1935	70	35	90	195
1936	140	40	255	435

Source: Banca d'Italia, L'Economia Italiana nel Sessenio 1931-1936, Part 2, Vol. I, Rome, 1938.

FOREIGN TRADE IN PRESERVED FISH - IMPORTS
in 1000 quintals

Year	Dried and Salted Fish						Marinated, Canned in Oil, etc.				Grand import total
	"Baccala" (Cod)[1]	Stock fish[2]	Salt herring, salt sardine, etc.[3]	Sardines and anchovies in brine[4]	Other	Total	Tuna[5]	Sardine and anchovy[4]	Other, incl. caviar crustaceans, etc.	Total	
1934	439	109	93	130	8	779	73	22	28	123	902
1935	337	79	67	141	4	628	92	24	36	153	780
1936	232	28	18	80	2	360	38	4	3	45	405

1. Main sources France and Iceland.
2. Norway.
3. Great Britain.
4. Spain and Portugal.
5. Spain.

EXPORTS

Year	Salt, Dried Smoked Fish	Marinated, Canned in Oil, etc.			Grand export total
		Sardine and anchovy*	Caviar, crustaceans, etc.	Total	
1934	4	22	2	24	28
1935	4	30	4	34	38
1936	5	21	7	28	33

* Average half to U.S.A., rest to diverse countries.

Source: Banca d'Italia, L'Economia Italiana nel Sessenio 1931-1936, Part 2, Vol. I, Rome, p. 580, 1938.

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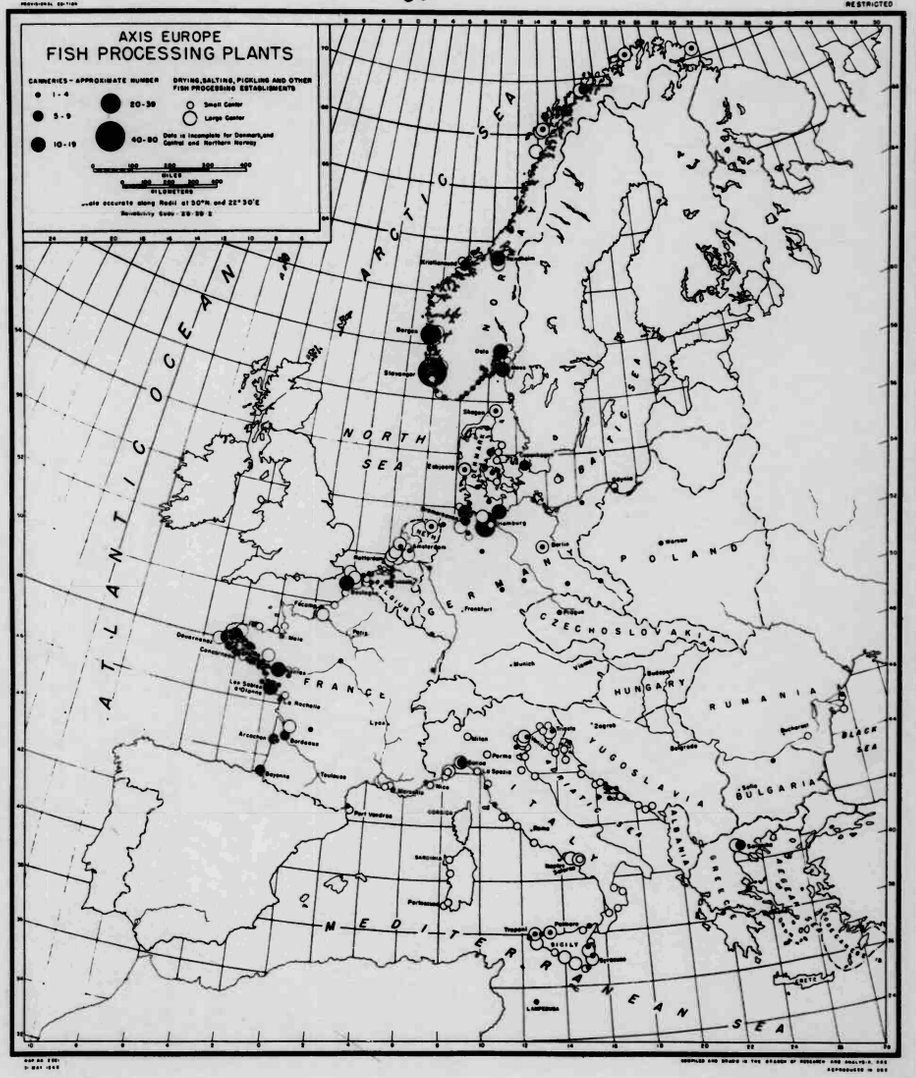
IMPORTS OF FRESH FISH AND FROZEN FISH BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

in quintals

	1934	1935	1936
Norway	22,976	2,890	664
Jugoslavia	9,933	4,620	3,774
Turkey	6,453	30,389	62,059
Denmark	5,322	1,586	221
France	469	279	120
Others	21,037	9,935	1,190
Total	66,190	49,699	68,027

Source: Banca d'Italia, L'Economia Italiana nel Sessenio 1931-1936, Part 2, Vol. I, Rome, p. 573, 1938.



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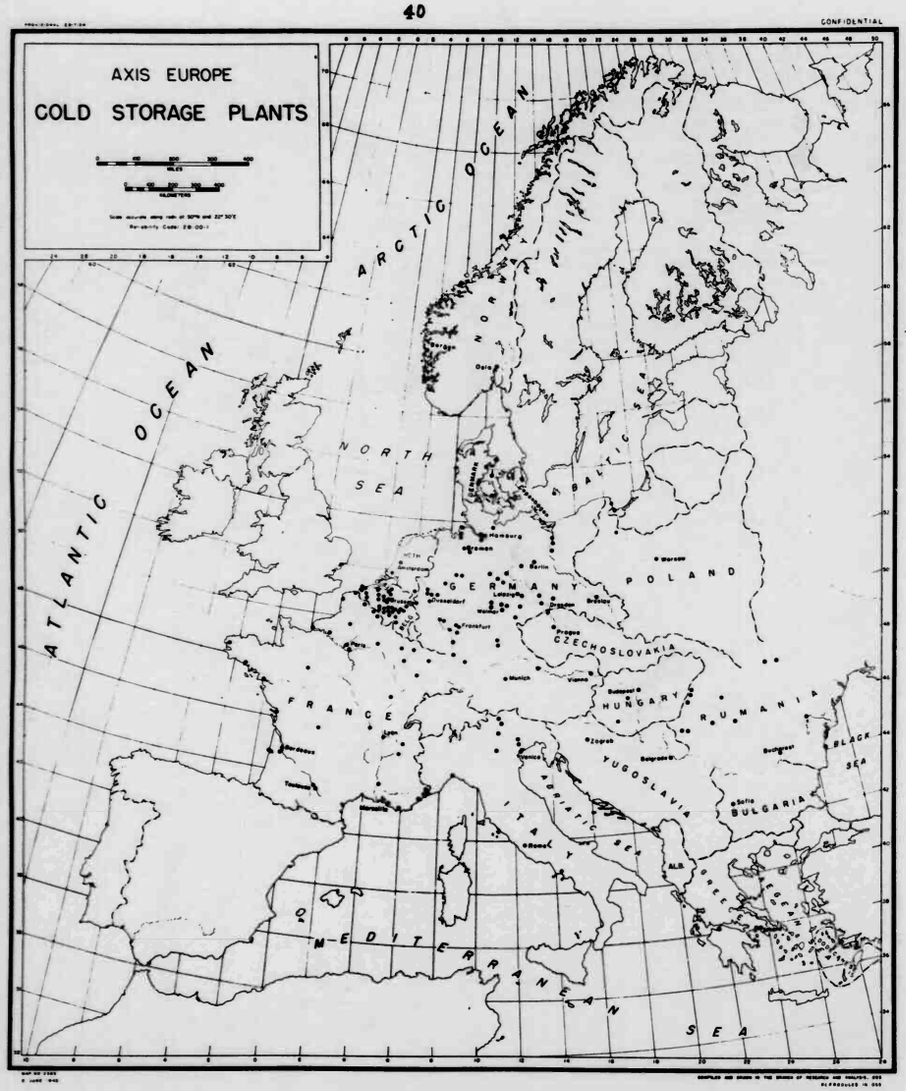

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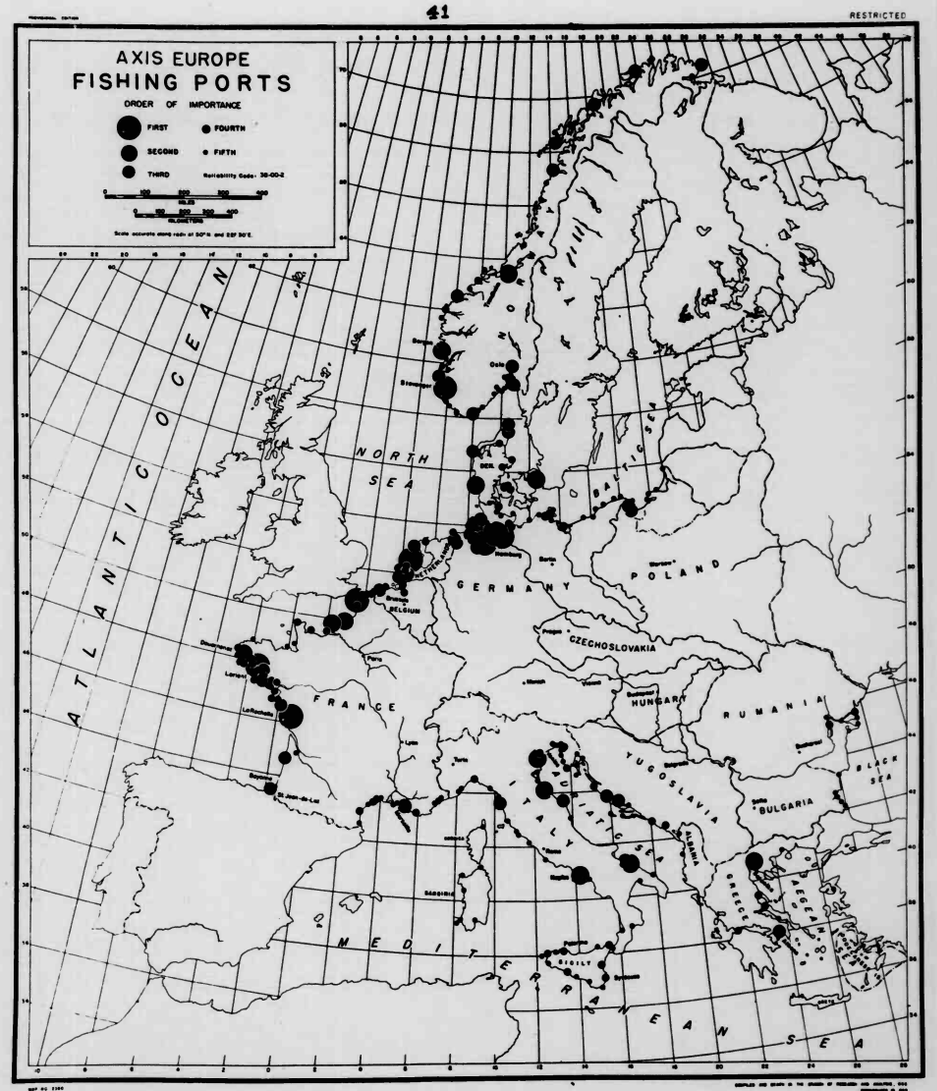

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CONFIDENTIAL 2 January 1944.

To: ComNavNaw
Subject: Italian Fishing Industry: Rehabilitation of.

1. This report on the rehabilitation of the Italian Fishing Industry is forwarded to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operation in the interest of the planning section of Military Government for occupied areas.

2. The report is an account of the work completed in SICILY, of the activities still under way on that Mediterranean Island, and on work under way in Region III (Naples).

3. The fishing industry in SICILY is now to all practical intents, functioning on a near normal basis. Fishing regulations are so shaped at present as to be fully compatible with naval security. The flow of necessary supplies and replacement of gear is already under way, and a complete survey of future requirements has been completed.

The effects of the measures taken have been immediate and perceptible. Fish has become a staple on the family diet of Sicily instead of a wartime delicacy, and the black market prices have been forced down to almost within the prescribed maximum prices.

4. This rehabilitation in Sicily did not, like Topsy, just grow, but resulted from much forethought and careful planning. Some of the preliminary workwas done in Washington after Vice Admiral R. R. Waesche, Commandant of the U. S. Coast Guard, assigned Commander W. H. Labrot, Lt. B. C. F. Mulieri and Lt. Claiborne Pell for duty with the Commanding General of the African-European theater. Consular reports of the period 1930 to 1940 made available by the State Department and other pertinent information on fisheries at the Department of Interior gave the three Coast Guard officers a rather accurate picture of the fishing resources of the Mediterranean waters in general. Too, they had a fair knowledge of the catch, gear used, methods of fishing, and the variations of the seasons.

The three officers left New York City by plane on October 11, 1943, and arrived at AFHQ, ALGIERS, on October 13, 1943. The period of October 14 to October 29, 1943, was spent at the School of Military Government, APO 512. The time spent there was really of little value but it did serve as a transition period in which to shake down to Army routine, and to receive specific assignments in AMG. Commander Labrot was designated as Chief of the fisheries section, Agriculture Sub-commission, ACC, and Lts. Mulieri and Pell as his assistants.

The fisheries section, together with others of the same sub-commission, arrived in Palermo on 5 November 1943.

5. Upon its arrival in Sicily, the section on fisheries went to work immediately. Its mission was two-fold. One pertained the fishermen; their boats, gear, and supplies, and the other, a study of the naval restrictions. When it was conversant with local problems in Palermo, the three members of the fisheries section split up to survey the island as a whole. One of them, while enroute in Sicily, was sent as far as Naples to see if a quantity of hemp could be secured. Then meeting together again, the section compiled its findings and submitted an over-all report on Sicily and parts of Region II. The Sicilian survey and the study in Naples revealed that the losses in fishing vessels had been by far greater along the coast of Continental Italy than they had been around the Mediterranean Island.

The method of procedure for the survey consisted of personally visiting the fishing villages and to inquire into local conditions from the Italian captains of the ports, Civil Affairs Officers, fishermen, local ship chandler, heads of cooperatives, and, of course, naval authorities. The three principal items of needs everywhere were: Nafta (the Italian counterpart of Diesel oil); hemp and cotton. Certain other requirements such as steel cables for the Tonnaras (Tuna fish nets) were discounted for the time being owing to the scarcity of steel.

Fishermen who had been idle but who were willing to return to work were found to be expert in the art of improvisation. Instead of lead for weights, they were using suitable stones; instead of Manilla, they were rigging grass ropes.

The fuel (Nafta) problem was rather easy to solve since the Army had adequate stores of it.

Hemp was altogether different. In Naples, the center of the hemp industry, there was found a lot of confusion, which exists to this date. First, there was a terrible lack of labor and the 1943 harvest had been delayed. Secondly, the needs of the navies would have to come first, naturally, and thirdly, the fixed prices on hemp were too low and what part of the 1943 harvest was being harvested by the farmers was finding its way to the black market at exhorbitant prices. Meanwhile, neither the Navies nor the fishermen were being supplied with their needs. At this writing some hemp of 1942 stock has been released and the problem of distribution appears to be solved since it is understood the Royal Navy has requested an expert of many years standing, familiar with the Italian hemp industry, to come over to Naples to handle the situation.

6. The problem of the relaxation of fishing regulations was absolutely basic to the revival of the fishing industry, which already fettered by the wartime restrictions of the Italian Government, was brought to an almost complete halt by the Allied invasion. Some time after the invasion in Sicily, day fishing was permitted in limited zones, but the restrictions on night fishing continued and were in effect when the fisheries section arrived in Palermo.

Since it was during the hours of darkness that, from time immemorial the Sicilians had caught the greater quantity of their fish, the fishing industry remained practically hamstrung.

Fortunately, Captain L. Doughty, Jr., USN, Commandant, N.O.B., Palermo, realized the importance of fish to the Palermo area because of the critical food situation and extended complete courtesy and cooperation to the fisheries section. Without the help of Captain Doughty, there could have been no revival of the fishing industry in Sicily.

Having received the cooperation of the American Naval authorities in Palermo in restoring night fishing, the fisheries section then sought to bring uniformity into the day fishing regulations which had previously differed in their application from one village to another throughout the coast.

Later, consultations were held with Captain Waight, RN, who was in charge of the British controlled waters of the Eastern half of Sicily, and, who like Captain Doughty at Palermo, extended complete cooperation.

The final result of the relaxation of night fishing regulations and of the discussions held with the two naval authorities was the drafting of a uniform set of regulations that, approved by both Captain Doughty and Captain Waight, were promulgated by Lt. Col. Charles Poletti, the Regional Civil Affairs Officer of Sicily, as his Official Order No. 55. The Sicilian regulations have been forwarded to AFHQ, with the recommendations that they be adopted as a pattern throughout the theater. It is strongly believed that similar regulations could be developed in the interest of Algerian fishermen.

7. At about this juncture in the progress of the rehabilitation work, the fisheries section lost the services of its chief, Commander Labrot, who was ordered backto WASHINGTON. He was succeeded as chief by Lieutenant Mulieri.

8. The new chief of the fisheries section and Lt. Pell aimed their attention to the second phase of the fisheries problem in Sicily: the price and marketing of the fish. After continuous interviews with fish market operators, fishermen, market directors, auctioneers and housewives, the section reached the conclusion to eliminate the maximum force set on the commodity. It was found that on days of great catches, due to favorable weather conditions, the price of fish came down promptly. On lean days the price, of course, raised, but the average price was well in line with the maximum fixed price. There was this benefit, however, that when the price fell on account of increased supply, the population received the benefit. The auctioneers had to be watched closely for fear that they might employ confederates among the bidders in order to keep the price as high as possible. The admonition--from time to time--that night fishing could be eliminated at any time worked wonders in instilling fear among the auctioneers and the market directors. (The admonition, of course, was only a threat.)

Lt. Mulieri moved to Naples with the Advance Echelon of the Allied Control Commission, while Lt. Pell was left in Palermo to further study prices and markets and to complete the work started.

9. The Allied Control Commission is set up as a purely Advisory body to a practically hypothetical Italian Government. To accomplish its task, the fisheries section has found itself forced to become its own action agency functioning directly with AMG offices both in Region I and in Region III, Naples, and with the fishermen, Italian Naval authorities, and others allied with the industry.

10. Night fishing regulations are non-existing in the Naples area at the time of this writing. An order went forth eliminating what little night fishing that went on in various zones from Naples to Salerno, on January 1, 1944.

A set of night fishing regulations believed to be consonant with naval security is being drafted by the fisheries section with the aid of the Italian Captain of the port who was charged with the responsibility of enforcing night fishing regulations in the Naples area prior to the invasion. In principle, these regulations follow the Sicilian pattern although they are more comprehensive. For one thing, as an example, they provide that each zone be under the rigid and constant surveillance of patrol boats. For another, there would be a complete control of the boats and their crews since they could reach the designated beaches or ports. This proposed set of regulations will be forwarded to the Flag Officer, Western Italy, within a day or so for his consideration.

11. The black market price on fish (and food in general) in the Naples area has reached an almost uncontrollable momentum in the Naples area. Since really there is no "white market" on fish, the prices range from 250 to 350 lires a kilo. During the Christmas season, Capitonno fish, a traditional dish for the holidays in Italy, reached the ridiculous price of 900 lires a kilo.

The fisheries section is collaborating with Region III and the Prefettura in Naples in the establishment of control measures to market the product. A complete plan on this problem will be submitted within a few days. It is being worked up jointly by Region III officials and a Fishing Commission composed of five civilians appointed by the Prefetto of the Province of Naples.

A complete report on the fisheries problem in the Naples area can be forwarded at a later date if desired.

12. The fisheries section has been requested to help Region II (Salerno, South) in the rehabilitation work.

It is contemplated to make extensive surveys in Bari, Brindisi, in Calabrian ports and along the Western coast South of Salerno.

13. As the rehabilitation work progresses, the program of the fisheries section is becoming more and more elastic. Its aim is to be able to turn the work over to Italian authorities, eventually, with the minimum of difficulties.

14. Although utterly and completely unfamiliar with the fishing industry as a whole in the Pacific, the fisheries section advises that the following measures be taken based on its actual Italian experience:

a. A maximum of preparatory research and statistics be at hand before embarking upon its mission.

b. To effect the minimum possible changes in control and administrative patterns from pre-wartimes. An example: The Italian Captain of Ports Officials (Navy Officers) rendered much valuable aid.

c. Make no efforts to change pre-existent fishing methods by ordinance.

d. Realize that the first phase of rehabilitation is (1) to relax restrictions whenever and wherever possible and (2) to secure supplies and gear to the fishermen.

e. Make the second phase of the rehabilitation work an expediting phase to insure the availability of equipment; also:

(1) Let the mission continue to serve as a liaison agency between the local Military Government, native government officials, and fishing industry to coordinate all efforts.

f. Adjust prices and marketing channels during the second phase of the program. It is important that all attention be centered on getting the wheels going during the first phase.

g. Cooperate as much as possible with the fishermen in aiding them to get their vessels back if requisitioned and in securing gear to effect repairs. Above all, secure the confidence of the fishermen.

B.C.F. MULIERI,
Lieutenant - USCGR,
Chief, Fisheries Section,
Agriculture Sub-Commission,
ACC.

Enclosures:
A. Regolamento Per Le Barche Da Pesca
B. Fishing Vessel Regulations (12/13/43)
C. Allied Military Government Sicily Region
Headquarters, APO 394 - OFFICIAL ORDER NO. 55

ENCLOSURE B

FISHING VESSEL REGULATIONS 12/13/43

1. The rules relative to fishing instituted by the Commandant of the Port of Palermo, are valid in the whole zone controlled by the United States Navy.

Day Time Fishing

2. Fishing craft will be permitted to enter and leave the Port of Palermo during daylight hours only, subject to compliance with the following regulations:

a. "Daylight hours" means from half-an-hour after Sunrise to half-an-hour before sunset.

b. Fishing will be allowed in Golfo di Palermo Eastward from Pto. S. Erasmo and Westward from Pto. Aranella.

c. Fishing boats must stay within one thousand (1,000)meters of shore.

d. No fishing boat shall approach closer than 300 meters of any ship in the anchorage.

Night Fishing

3. With the exception of the Gulf and Harbor of Palermo (as limited by Cape La Barbara on the West and Cape Mongerbine on the East), night fishing is permitted in the whole of the Sicilian waters controlled by the U. S. Navy under the same general regulations that govern daytime fishing and within the following limitations.

a. Neither fishing nor the movement of fishing vessels is permitted during the hours of darkness in the above defined limits of the Gulf of Palermo.

b. The five (5) mile / eight (8) kilometer offshore limit remains in force except that it shall be reduced to three (3) miles / five (5) kilometers off Cape San Vito during the hours of darkness.

c. No vessel shall approach within five hundred (500) meters of the shore during the hours of darkness.

d. There shall be no departures or landings of fishing craft during the hours of darkness except in cases of emergency.

e. Fishing lights must be shielded from the sides and from above.

f. All fishing vessels must carry a red recognition light on the hull between the waterline and the deck on that side of the ship nearest the shore.

g. The restrictions against the use of possession of explosives will be rigidly enforced.

h. Violators of the above regulations will be fired upon and will be subject to the suspension of their licenses, prison sentence and/or a fine.

General Instructions

4. a. A list of all Fishing Vessels and other small craft with permission to enter and leave the Harbor and Gulf of Palermo independently will be supplied to Commandant, N.O.B., Palermo. A brief description of each vessel will be appended thereto, with the name of the owner.

b. All such vessels when entering or leaving Palermo are to keep to the swept channels, unless they have special permission from the Commandant to use any other route. Small open fishing boats which normally work in close proximity to the coast near Palermo will be allowed to pass to their fishing grounds directly as they cannot reach their fishing areas via the swept channel. A careful check shall be kept on them, however, and they shall be stopped and examined as frequently as possible. All boats approaching from seaward will forthwith report to Inner Naval Patrol.

c. Italian Local Authorities will insure that all Fishing Vessels and small craft are informed that they are liable to be challenged and stopped, if necessary, by Naval Patrol Vessels.

d. All Fishing Vessels and other small craft will be required to paint their license numbers on each bow, in white paint or contrasting colors. These numbers shall be preceded by a letter or letters designating the home port of the boat. Figures are to be at least twelve inches (12") in height (30 cms.) and 3 cm. in width. These numbers are to be kept clean and legible. In the case of boats with freeboard of less than 30 on it will be the responsibility of the owners to arrange the size of figures with the Capitaneria.

e. If Patrol Craft observe vessels, subsequently ascertained to be friendly, attempting to enter or leave Palermo other than by the regulations herein laid down, the numbers and names of such vessels are to be taken and reported to the Harbor Defense Officer who will take action through the Commandant, N.O.B., Palermo and/or the Italian Local Authorities.

f. Inner Patrols or Picket Boat Patrols observing a vessel entering the Gulf of Palermo either by the swept channel or from any other quarters, are not to assume that she has been identified and accepted by any other patrols. They are to close and identify if they are in any doubt as to her identity.

g. All patrol vessels are to be ready to fire warning shots or burst of machine fire, ahead of any vessels which do not cooperate with the patrols attempting to identify her. If such vessel persistently fails to cooperate or does not stop, she is to be sunk.

24-70016

h. Any vessel that is at all suspicious is to be ordered to anchor in the anchorage, well clear of any Allied Merchant vessel or Man of War and be kept under close observation. The Harbor Defense Officer must be informed immediately so that any necessary action can be taken by the Naval Authorities.

6. The Capitaneria of the Port will be charged with responsibility of enforcing the following:

a. Registration of all fishing craft.

(1) Issuance of licenses.
(2) Crew lists, including individual identification cards and booklets of registration.
(3) All fishing craft must anchor at the dock della Cala (South Basin).
(4) Before departure, all fishing boats must secure a permit from the Capitaneria of the port. In case the boat is many more than one day; its permit must be presented to the Ufficio Maritimo, or Delogazinne di Spiaggia or La guardia di Finanza.
(5) Upon entering and leaving the Port of Palermo, all fishing boats must stop at the dike FORNEA (end of breakwater), there to be inspected by guards of the Capitaneria
(6) Immediately upon arrival in the Port of Palermo, the Captain of each boat will present himself at the Capitaneria of the Port and turn in his permit.
(7) The Capitaneria of the Port of Palermo shall keep a register showing the departures and arrivals of all fishing boats.

7. Fishing boats and other small craft and their personnel are liable to the normal provisions and operation of Italian Customs Law, in so far as the use of territorial waters and ports herein mentioned are concerned.

8. These regulations shall be effective as of 16th November 1943.

H. T. Colonnello diPorto
e delis Direzione Marittima
Capo del Comparimento Marittimo
A. SARZANA

APPROVED: /s/ T. W. Gilbertson
Major, R.A.
Revenue Officer, A.G.G.

/s/ L. Doughty, Jr.
Captain, USN (Ret)

24-70016-175

ENCLOSURE C

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

OFFICIAL ORDER:
NO. 55:

13/12/43

By virtue of power conferred on me, I, CHARLES POLETTI, Lt. Colonel, Regional Civil Affairs Officer

O R D E R

1. All boats must be registered and licensed by approved authority. The registration number shall be preceded by a letter or letters designating the home port of the boat and shall be clearly painted on both sides near the bow.

2. Fish must be sold in the market of the boat's port of departure unless the written permission of AMG is secured to the contrary.

3. The restrictions against the use or possession of explosives will be rigidly enforced.

4. During the hours of darkness, boats are prohibited from fishing more than five miles (8 Kilometers) from shore and no boat shall approach within five hundred meters of any shore. Darkness means from half hour before sunset until one half hour after sunrise.

5. There shall be no departures or landings of fishing boats during the hours of darkness except in the case of emergency.

6. Fishing lights must be shielded from the sides and from above.

7. The Allied Naval Command shall specify such further local regulations and prohibited areas as it deems necessary.

8. Boats violating any of these rules are liable to attack. Violators of this law will be subject to the suspension of their licenses, prison sentence and/or a fine.

/s/ Charles Poletti
Lt. Colonel
Regional Civil Affairs
Officer

These regulations were approved by Capt. H. F. Waight, Royal Navy, S.N.O. East Sicily, 27/11/43, and by Captain L. Daughty, United States Navy, Commander, U. S. Naval Advanced Bases, Sicily, 30/11/43

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